

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 4,812,419 issued to Lee, et al. ("Lee"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 4,724,471 issued to Leuschner, et al. ("Leuschner"). The Examiner rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 4,342,045 issued to Kim ("Kim"). The Examiner rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,137,182 issued to Hause, et al. ("Hause"). The Examiner rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,620,916 issued to Eden, et al. ("Eden"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,726,499 issued to Irinoda ("Irinoda"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,522,014 issued to Egitto, et al. ("Egitto").

Further, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,787,905 issued to Goerlach, et al. ("Goerlach"). The Examiner rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent Application 2001/0002713 by Goda, et al. ("Goda"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,310,398 issued to Katz, et al. ("Katz"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,441,494 issued to Huang, et al. ("Huang"). The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,300,683 issued to Nagasaka, et al. ("Nagasaka"). The above United States Patents and United States Patent Application are hereinafter referred to as the "cited references."

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 6. Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 and 8. Furthermore, Applicants have added claims 10-15. Accordingly, claims 6-7 and 9-15 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

**I. Rejection of Claims 6-7 and 9 Under §102**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6-7 and 9 under § 102(a) as being anticipated by the cited references. Claims 7 and 9 are dependent on claim 6. Claim 6 recites an integrated-circuit ("IC") layout that includes a net with routable elements. The IC layout also includes a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, where the interconnect lines have ends that are partially circular. The IC layout further includes a first set of vias that are circular, where several interconnect lines with partially circular ends terminate at several circular vias.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references discloses, teaches, or even suggests such an IC layout. For instance, the cited references do not describe an IC layout that includes a first set of vias that are circular, where several interconnect lines with partially circular ends terminate at several circular vias, as recited in claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not render claim 6 unpatentable. As claims 7 and 9 are dependent on claim 6, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 9 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that were discussed above for claim 6. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 6-7 and 9.

**II. New Claims 10-15**

In this Amendment, Applicants have added claims 10-15. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-15 are fully supported by the specification. As claims 10-15 are dependent on claim 6, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-15 are patentable over the cited references

for at least the same reasons that were discussed above for claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-15 are in condition for allowance.

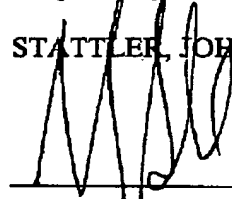
### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 6-7 and 9-15, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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